

RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

SEA/RC34/R2 EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the progress achieved in the Expanded Programme on Immunization in Member countries;

Agreeing with the recommendations made by the WHO study group on BCG vaccination policies (WHO Technical Report Series 652) that, on the basis of an extended review of BCG vaccination, the use of BCG as an anti-tuberculosis measure should be continued;

Noting the benefits obtained through training the programme personnel in the various management and technical skills needed for the sound development of immunization services;

Recognizing the importance of generating appropriate information to improve service delivery and to assess the progress and impact of immunization programmes on the target diseases;

Reaffirming the observations and recommendations of the Thirty-first World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA31.53, and

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultative Meeting on Planning and Regional Self-sufficiency in Vaccine Production for the Expanded Programme on Immunization, held in New Delhi in April 1978, and its own resolution SEA/RC31/R1,

1. URGES Member States to:

- (a) continue with BCG vaccination as an important component of the Expanded Programme on Immunization;
- (b) establish training programmes on a continuing basis for both new and existing personnel, on the technical and management aspects of the Programme as a routine component of the curricula of health training institutions;
- (c) extend the use of sampling techniques (cluster surveys) to gather data on the complete coverage of target populations, particularly those in the 0-12 month age-group, and for the identification of problems and constraints in order to take remedial action for improving the immunization programmes;

- (d) strengthen routine surveillance systems for the collection of data on EPI target diseases for establishing baselines against which the impact of immunization can be measured in terms of reduction of morbidity, mortality and disability, and
- (e) cooperate with the Organization in identifying and developing appropriate methodologies for the monitoring and evaluation of national programmes of immunization, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to continue to extend the necessary technical and material support to the Expanded Programme on Immunization in Member States, with particular emphasis on:

- (a) providing training materials and assistance in developing appropriate training activities, when requested;
- (b) giving technical support, when requested, in order to develop techniques for generating appropriate information to measure the progress and achievements of the Programme;
- (c) providing training and technical support for the development of the cold chain, and
- (d) promoting technical cooperation among countries of the Region, particularly in regard to the exchange of technical information and expertise as well as the attainment of regional self-reliance in vaccines.